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The Playground

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The Playground

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Any person contributing five dollars or more shall be a
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The Playground

Vol. XIII. No 11

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The World at Play

Don't Try to Put the Whole River Through.—Joseph Lee expresses his idea of the labor problem as follows:

When you make use of water power you put part of your water through your mill but you don't try to put the whole river through. You leave some of it to go over the dam and follow its natural channel. If you did not do so, the river in time of freshet would carry your mill with it out to sea.

But it is still the endeavor of our industrial communities to put their whole man power through the mill—at least they have not yet provided adequately for any overflow along the natural channel of human interest. It is not surprising if trouble sometimes results. Human nature is less pliable than water. It is more difficult to make the whole of a man pass through an alien channel than to turn a whole river to one side. Man is committed to certain forms of action, to creative and constructive ef-

fort, to being in some things his own master.

If he is denied expression in these forms one of two things will happen,—either he will shrivel up and become less of a man for any purpose, human or divine, or he will break through the narrow bounds imposed upon him—with effects disastrous to himself, to his employer and to the whole community.

It is defeated instinct that is at the bottom of labor unrest throughout the world. The remedy is to restore the opportunity for human nature to flow, in part at least, along its natural channel—to find for the workers in our mills and factories, to find for all of us,—through the development of leisure time activities, expression for that part of our nature that will not run smoothly through the mill.

The community should to this end become the home of lost talents, the place where the part of each man that industry has left unfulfilled

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may reap its satisfaction. Community Service is working to this end.

A Heartening Message.—The Community Service Staff of the Northwest District recently sent the following pledge to Headquarters.—We have faith in the mission of Community Service. It builds on the enduring principle of service rather than on irritating competition for institutional ends. It is searching out the instincts and needs of mankind, intent on opening the way for creative expression and real satisfaction. It is stressing the fundamentals of folk life, the family, the neighborhood, the community. We pledge you that we will throw ourselves whole heartedly into this pioneer work. We will strive to put into it all of our energy, imagination and sincerity.

American Legion to Cooperate with Community Service.—The following Resolution was adopted by the Committee on Resolutions of the American Legion Convention at Minneapolis on November 11, 1919:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the American Legion, adopted at St. Louis, in its preamble declares that the Legion's purpose among other things is "to

inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and the Nation;" and

WHEREAS, The need of a constructive peace-time program in every American Community lays upon all members of the Legion a genuine responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That a special committee of five be appointed by the National Executive Committee to draw up a report on the purposes and methods of social organization and community service proposed by non-commercial, non-political and non-sectarian organizations, said report to serve as the basis for recommendations covering local and state-wide activities which may legitimately come within the purpose of the American Legion, make the Legion a power in every community and serve to "Foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism" to which as an organization we are pledged.

This Resolution, together with all others submitted by the Committee, was left by the Convention for action to the National Executive Committee. That body adopted it on the day following the Convention—November 13th.

During the debate in the Resolutions Committee several members paid striking

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tribute to War Camp Community Service for its assistance to the Legion. The National Executive Committee in announcing the adoption of the Resolution declared that the national chairman, Col. D'Olier, had been authorized to appoint the Committee of Five "to cooperate with Community Service which has grown out of War Camp Community Service."

Resolutions Adopted by the First International Conference of Medical Women.—

WHEREAS, Exercise is necessary to good health, particularly under modern conditions of life; RESOLVED (a) That Communities be urged to supply easily accessible facilities for such exercise, namely, public gymnasias, swimming pools, recreation and health centers

(b) That women be stimulated through health education to make full use of these opportunities

Helping the Legion Sing.—The Minneapolis *Tribune* report of the American Legion convention says:

"America's army was a singing as well as a fighting force, and now that the veterans have donned 'civvies' they still enjoy a song. To meet the demand for a snap-

py song for the American Legion members in attendance at the national convention in Minneapolis next week, Frank L. Jones of New York City, head of the publicity division of War Camp Community Service, in Minneapolis to attend the Legion gathering, yesterday wrote a Legion song.

"It is expected Miss M. Lucille Holiday, community song director, will lead the former service men in singing this Legion song whenever occasion offers during the convention period. The tune is *Coming through the Rye* and the words follow:

Gin a buddie meet a buddie
Who's to say them nay?
Serve together, stick together
That's the only way.
All the world has loved a
buddie
Where'er he was found.
Let's be buddies, always buddies
In our Legion bound!"

Getting at the Girl Problem.—A suggestion for bringing about through Community Service closer team work among agencies in a community interested in work with girls will be found in the following plan which is being tried out by Girls' Community Service of New

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York War Camp Community Service:

The organization has been effective in creating a permanent "Conference on Girls' Interests" made up of two representatives of each of the big city-wide agencies for girls in Manhattan and the Bronx, these representatives being a paid executive and one committee member. The conference will hold monthly discussions for the purpose of stimulating interest in club work problems, promoting new club activities and preventing duplication of effort in various localities.

A program committee has been appointed to report at the next meeting the subjects considered for discussion and it has been suggested that at this meeting each representative give a statement of the general policy and purpose of her organization, of its membership, and its activities.

New Girls' Club in Sewickley.—Sewickley, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh, has undertaken a movement which is demonstrating what volunteer leadership can do. Under the direction of a public-spirited woman, the girls' neighborhood club was recently started with nine girls present at the opening meeting. At the

second meeting there were 30 girls who enjoyed folk dancing, games and singing and who took part in the discussion on "what our club wants to do." The Catholic priest has given his hearty cooperation and is urging the attendance of his communicants. A gymnasium teacher has been engaged and later sewing and millinery teachers will be added to the staff.

The girls of the community are delighted with the opportunities offered through the club and are insisting on the payment of dues from the start.

Michigan Pushing Physical Education.—The passage of compulsory physical training laws in a number of states, with the syllabi of physical education and games prepared as an essential step in making these laws effective, has resulted in some valuable contributions to the practical literature of the recreation movement.

Mention has already been made in *THE PLAYGROUND* of the syllabi published by New York State, Indiana, and a number of other states in which compulsory physical education laws have gone into effect within the past few years. The State of Michi-

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gan through the Department of Public Instruction at Lansing has issued a revised course in physical training for graded schools which is exceedingly comprehensive. From the initial suggestions to teachers in which the basic principles are set forth, through the story plays, rhythmic plays, games and contests of each of the eight grades, to the discussions of physical training in high schools with the programs outlined, the bulletin provides a clear practical basis for a physical education and play program for schools.

A valuable feature of the publication is its insistence that recreational activities shall not be limited to the schools but shall be carried into the communities.

State Parks Being Developed.—Mr. George A. Parker, Superintendent of the Department of Parks, Hartford, Connecticut, and Secretary and Treasurer of the Connecticut State Park Commission, writes that Connecticut is developing rapidly along the line of state parks. There are now twenty-one park areas covering over 5000 acres. In these parks are camps and increased provision is being made for

camping during the coming year.

The city parks which are under the care of the City Park Commission alone represent an area of 655.679 acres while the Keney Park Trustees are responsible for the management of parks totaling 676.51 acres.

Course in Forest Recreation.—Warren F. Bullock, Director of Forest Extension, N. Y. State College of Forestry, Syracuse, N. Y., outlines the new course as follows:

"How to use the forest to the best advantage for recreation, how to build the best trails to take the tourist into the heart of the wilderness, how to assist the city man to find a place for a country home in a national forest, and how to train men to manage public forests in the interest of a more general use of the forests of America as national playgrounds—those are the problems which have caused a college professor, Henry R. Francis, of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, to make a ten thousand mile tour of the nation to fit himself to teach the answer to these problems to students of forestry.

"The College of Forestry,

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because of its belief that the profession of forestry is something more than the growing of trees, and should include the development of forest areas for public use for hunting, fishing, and camping, has by act of the New York state legislature also been authorized to establish a scientific station for study of forest life, the Roosevelt Wild Life Experiment Station, with headquarters at Syracuse, where all forms of forest animal life will be studied. This station has been placed under the supervision of Dr. C. C. Adams, a noted forest zoologist, as director, and work done during the war at Oneida Lake in studying fish life has been transferred with its records and specimens to this station.

"Three main phases of study form the basis of the new course in recreational forestry as it will be taught at Syracuse, and these phases are based on the experience of Prof. Francis in his conferences with heads of all the great western national parks. The first of these is the development of leased camp sites, where the business man may, at a minimum of cost, lease from the public forest sufficient land for the building of a home in the woods. The customary lease is for twenty

years, with privilege of renewal at the end of that time. The second problem is the building of proper trails and the types of trails needed, automobile highways, foot paths, trails to lead to spots of scenic interest, and trails which serve both as trails and fire lines to stop the spread of forest fires. The third problem, and the most important in many ways, is the development of camp sites in great parks, where transients may stop, under strict regulation as to use and abuse of the privilege of living in public forests."

Tramping Trips Delightful and Inexpensive.—Mr. C. M. Goethe of Sacramento, California, who is so strong an advocate of tramping trips as an inexpensive and highly desirable form of outdoor recreation, during the past summer personally tested out his theories. With a party of seven others, two of whom were young children, Mr. Goethe took the Tahoe-Yosemite tramp which led through the wildest kind of country.

Mr. Goethe writes: "Often for days we did not meet a single person. Most of the time we were at an altitude of about two miles. We bought our horses and sold them, as

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a result saving the four dollars a day rental which is charged. Our entire trip, including meals, pack horses, exclusive of railroad fare to Tahoe and back through Yosemite, was on the basis of about \$37.50 for one month. At the same time camps were charging from \$3.50 a day up and the hotels \$5.00 a day and more."

Winter Sports in Denver.—Through War Camp Community Service in Denver much interest has been aroused in winter sports. With the hearty cooperation of the Department of Parks and Improvements a program is being arranged which includes the establishment of a number of outdoor skating rinks, tobogganing slides, and several ski jumps. Certain streets will be roped off for sliding and the city has promised to flood corner lots and baseball parks which may be designated, getting them in a state of repair for ice-skating.

Much-used Swimming Pool.—Some very interesting facts have been received from Mr. Charles S. Lamb, Secretary of the Playground Commission of Los Angeles, California, regarding the use of the Exposition Swimming Pool for the season of 1919. The pool was opened to the public on June

7th and closed on October 6th. The number of patrons for the season amounted to 57,302, with a total cost for operation of \$4692.75. The cash collections from patrons amounted to \$4735.65 leaving a credit balance of \$42.90. The Department will open up two new pools in another section of the city.

Bridgeport's Flying Squadron of Song Leaders.—A new feature of the curriculum of Bridgeport's night schools, Americanization classes, and elementary school classes, is the community singing under the direction of the community organizer for music of the Bridgeport Community Service Commission, carried out by a corps of voluntary song leaders. The method of organization is as follows:

The superintendent of night schools of the Board of Education, has cooperated in arranging an evening schedule so that all the important schools of the city may be reached in one night by the song leaders. The president of the Fire Board contributes one night a week the use of the fire chief's seven passenger touring car to carry the song leaders throughout the city. The Community Service Commission provides all song

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sheets, song leaders, and organizes the work. All these agencies are working together in this way, in order that the night schools of the city may be enriched in their program through music, and that the new citizen through the singing of American songs may not only become more proficient in the English language, but may acquire more quickly American ideals and customs.

The short session of the night schools which lasts only from 7 to 9 o'clock necessitates swift connections for the flying squadron. The first night six schools were visited and 600 people reached. As the work develops, it is hoped that all the schools in the city will be covered in one night.

Baby Shows.—A very interesting activity of the Board of Recreation of Bridgeport has been the baby shows held at seven of the largest playgrounds of the city. The playgrounds chosen were so selected that at least one was within walking distance of every mother of little children.

The cooperation of the visiting nurses and of the Board of Health was secured, members of the visiting nurses staff being present at each show to demonstrate the essential points in child care and to an-

swer questions regarding individual problems.

Each entrant was weighed and measured in accordance with the normality test made by one of the doctors whose services were made available through the Board of Health. The tests were informal, the doctor in charge taking opportunity to discuss foods, periods of feeding, and reason for malnutrition and to make suggestion for follow-up work.

Two gold medals were awarded at each of the seven playgrounds—one for the children under two years, and one for the children between two and five years most nearly normal. First and second prizes of ribbons were given for the children best dressed for play.

Health Week in Trenton.—Many organizations in Trenton cooperated to make Health Week the successful undertaking it proved to be. The Mercer County Mother's Club, the Trenton Welfare Association, the Psychological Department of the Contemporary Club, the Y. W. C. A., the Y. M. C. A., the Y. M. H. A., the Knights of Columbus, War Camp Community Service, and other organizations, pooling their resources under the general direction of the Anti-Tuberculosis League in charge of the

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work, opened headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce and from this point formed contacts with speakers, such as doctors, nurses, and other authorities on matters of health. Entertainment committees were formed; theatres, churches, and similar community institutions were enlisted, and in this way practically the entire city was covered.

The motion pictures used, which were for the most part obtained from the Children's Bureau at Washington, were shown in the schools, church halls and other public places. They covered such topics as "Our Children," "Kiddies' Camps," and "The Preparation of Food and Modified Milk." Speakers gave talks in the schools both during the day, and at special meetings in the evening before practically all the clubs, in the theatres, and on the streets.

The particular function of War Camp Community Service in the program was to provide entertainments which would draw the crowds. These entertainments included programs of singing on a moving theatre truck with a four minute speaker, entertainments at one of the schools and in the Y. M. C. A. hall, and a health pageant.

Every Child May Play.—The Recreation Department and the Board of Education of Oakland are combining their forces in so successful a manner that every child attending the public school is being given opportunity for recreation under the leadership of the Recreation Department.

The Fifth Annual Play Day for girls of the public schools of Oakland held under the direction of the Recreation Department showed a remarkable increase in interest and attendance. The tremendous enthusiasm evoked by the success of the meet as well as the noticeable average improvement in physical development and carriage of the girls was indicative of the undoubted success of the program.

The activities of Play Day, which took place at the Mosswood Park Playground, began with a posture parade led by a band of 30 pieces made up of boys from Melrose High School. A banner was awarded to the school showing the best posture in the parade. The decision was made on the percentage basis with 40% given for the best marching posture, 40% for the best standing posture, and 20% for neatness and appearance.

The day's program included

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an exhibition of folk dancing, circle and singing games, matched games and athletic contests, and a presentation of short plays by the playground dramatic clubs.

Beacon, New York, on Honor Roll.—Beacon, New York, a community of 11,674, has recently been added to the honor roll of cities conducting year-round recreation. With the assistance of a field secretary from the Playground and Recreation Association of America, the community rallied its forces in October and as the result of a public hearing held on October 20th, \$2500—\$200 more than was requested—was appropriated from city funds. A Recreation Commission has been appointed and a Superintendent of Recreation, Miss Frances Haire, who has had experience in industrial and other forms of recreation—has been at work since November.

A Program for All the People.—Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, which has recently joined the honor list of communities with a year-round recreation system with a superintendent in charge, has levied a tax of one-half mill after July 1, to carry on the work. Both the School Board and the Borough Council emphasized their posi-

tion in voting these funds that they intended to provide a community recreation program, not merely playgrounds for children.

Donated Playground for Niles, Michigan.—Mr. Francis J. Plyn of the Kawneer Manufacturing Company of Niles, Michigan, has recently purchased 67 acres of land partly within the limits of the city, which will be developed as a community playground with facilities for such activities as tennis, baseball, football, a children's playground, skating, coasting, and a golf course. The title of the property will be retained by the owner until the city is prepared to make adequate provision for its operation on municipal funds.

Community Insurance.—Community insurance as worked out in Kingsport, Tennessee, comes as the newest and most novel expression of community action. Under this plan all of the workers employed by the various industries located at Kingsport have been insured against death, sickness, and accident under a single group policy. In all about 2000 people are employed and as the population of Kingsport is estimated at about 10,000 practically

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every family is protected in case of the sickness or death of its bread-winner. A health center to which every resident of the city has access has been established, and a housing plan outlined.

According to officials of the insurance company this is the first instance on record where the whole community has adopted a standardized plan of insurance.

Rural Center Effective.— A very interesting community center is being conducted in a rural district near a lumber camp in the hills not far from Atlanta, Georgia, by the pastor of a community church and his wife. A four-room cottage next to the school-house has been rented for the work. One room will serve as a kindergarten, another as the public library, the third for domestic science instruction, and the fourth will provide for the study of public health and child welfare and for the work of the junior Red Cross. The community events which have been made possible include a community sing under the direction of a song leader from Atlanta, an illustrated lecture on Europe by an ex-service man who had been overseas, and outdoor games and story hours.

Country Life Conference.— Two hundred and fifty people gathered in Chicago in November to attend the second National Country Life Conference held November 8th to 11th. These delegates, who came from all parts of the United States, represented various organizations interested in the rural life conference.

The conference this year concentrated its thought upon the problem of rural health, and all discussions and reports of all the committees were centered about this theme. Great emphasis was placed on the need of public health nurses in rural communities.

One of the reports which made a great impression upon the Conference was that presented by the Committee on Recreation and Social Life, the subject of the report being "Recreation and Rural Health." In it was emphasized the need for recreation as a positive constructive factor in maintaining the health of the community. Recognizing the general truth that farm work does have certain injurious effects upon physical development, it pointed out the sort of recreation which should be engaged in

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to correct these detrimental effects.

The attitude of the Conference as a whole was optimistic. It was felt that the rural life movement was making very decided progress, and that while the problem is being somewhat complicated by the fact that so many social organizations are desiring to enter the rural field, the objective to be attained was becoming more clearly defined and the steps necessary to be taken to attain that objective were becoming more and more apparent.

Helpful Reports.—A very comprehensive report has been published by the Board of Education of the City of New York telling of the work of the community centers, vacation schools and vacation playgrounds of that city. There is much information in this report which cannot fail to be of interest to recreation superintendents throughout the country. Copies may be secured by applying to Mr. Eugene Gibney, Director of the Department at 500 Park Avenue. Requests for this re-

port should be accompanied by six cents in postage.

The Department of Public Instruction of the State of Indiana has recently issued a bulletin on Physical Education (No. 36) which is very comprehensive in its scope. Superintendents of recreation wishing copies of this report should apply to Mr. Horace Ellis, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Playgrounds in the Panama Canal Zone.—According to the *American Physical Education Review*, playgrounds are being developed in the Canal Zone through the Bureau of Clubs and Playgrounds which inaugurated this work at Balboa in November, 1917. In June, 1918, trained and experienced play leaders were placed in charge at Ancon and Cristobal. During the past year work has been developed at Pedro Miguel and Gatun.

The playgrounds are located on school property and activities are largely among the children, although interest in adult recreation is growing.

A Message from Governor Coolidge

The so-called "class consciousness" which seems to be constantly created by sinister agencies in the minds of workers is to be deplored. We must all endeavor to prevent the attempted separation of men whose interests are actually mutual and identical into groups which believe their interests are best served by antagonism to and hatred of other groups.

We must all, manufacturers, merchants, workmen, realize our interdependence—what helps one helps all—and the interest of one is the interest of all. There can be in the United States no such thing as "classes." There must be but one class—Americans—and only by all of us recognizing and working persistently, methodically and sympathetically to keep this point in view, can we succeed in bringing civic morale to its highest standards.

I most heartily commend the efforts of Community Service, Incorporated, to secure this result. As I have studied the work I am convinced this work will bring workers and employers together in a better understanding of mutual problems, and greatly improve both civic, social and industrial conditions.

We needed such service when we were building for war, and we need it now when we are rebuilding for peace. We should make it possible for men and women to make themselves useful to the community. The impulse is there, and all it needs is to be shown how to express itself. Community Service, which has made a study of just this problem and has a trained personnel to show people how to do for themselves, should prove itself of extraordinary value.

It is not enough that we protect our own city or community—we must establish a medium, a clearing house of ideas and inspiration from which all may draw.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Calvin Coolidge

A Little Sermon on Play

EDWARD B. POLLARD

Community Service for Chester and Vicinity,
Chester, Pennsylvania

In this great work-a-day world what place can play have? It was said of a certain minister that he "could preach a *dry* sermon even on *the Flood*." Is it a thing incredible that a very serious sermon might easily be preached even on play? To invest well the spare hours is often as difficult as to invest well the spare earnings. Both require the exercise of good gray matter.

In community work it has been very generally discovered that the recreational life of the people is the very best first point of contact for any get-together movement. This, of course does not mean that the play side of a man's life is the most important side; but it does mean that it is one of the most universal and democratic. Neither business, nor religion nor "society" nor education causes all to put aside their clannish spirit as does play. We come from our stilts and meet on common ground, like the children—who can teach us many things in democracy. Particularly in the finding of a point of contact with our foreign-born neighbors has the recreational side of life been found of service. Lack of acquaintance and understanding, difference of language, of custom, and often of religion, tend to separate the various groups of our people. Recreational centers, community singing, pageants, chorals, swimming, skating, are highly serviceable in encouraging a community spirit.

The right sort of play develops character. For little children this is God's way of educating them. Every child has a right to rich, happy, buoyant play, and he is enemy of a child who robs him of it. The child who has not learned to play will not know how to carry on the game of life. It is in sport that one learns that he must keep the rules of the game or be put out of it; here he learns the social lesson of fair play, of obedience to law and co-operation with his fellows. The child who has been taught to play and play properly can never become an anarchist. There would be fewer criminals if our schools and our municipalities would take more seriously the maintenance and supervision of proper

BLOCK PARTIES AND STREET DANCES

playgrounds and recreation centers. Show me a group at healthy play and I feel safe among them, though they be total strangers to me.

It is sometimes said, "You don't have to teach children to play." If this means simply that it is natural for children to engage in merriment and sport, the remark is true enough. But if it is meant that children do not need favorable surroundings, proper equipment and intelligent guidance in their play if the best results are to be obtained, then the remark is wide of the truth. Both for their bodies' and their morals' sake guidance is necessary.

No community therefore should begrudge a few dollars spent on recreation. It is during a man's free time that his chief temptations come—not when he is at work, nor when he is asleep, but when he is free to do as he pleases. It is then the Devil makes the brain his workshop, and finds mischief for the idle hands. Let a man's leisure hours be neglected, and indulgence, debauchery as well as unrest and all sorts of ills are apt to overtake him. Proper recreation helps a community to be happy, healthy-minded and whole-souled.

Block Parties and Street Dances

HAZEL COLEY HAYMAN

Supervisor Special Activities, Board of Recreation,
Bridgeport, Connecticut

**A Typical Day
in the Italian
District** The breakfast dishes are washed, the beds airing, the children in the playground, and the babies quiet for a while; the mothers with their work temporarily suspended, are gathered in groups of three or more. If a passerby is an Italian he will hear much of local news and gossip.

Gradually the morning wears on and the children become restless. The sun striking across the courtyard reminds each mother that noon is fast approaching and that her "man's" dinner must be prepared. A scattering of mothers and babies follows. With the exception of the arrival of the children from the playground and the men from work all for a while is quiet.

About 2:30 the street takes on a different aspect. A few of the more progressive mothers have donned their downtown clothes and have dressed their children in hand-embroidered dresses and good hair ribbons and are making their way to town. The majority,

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however, are planning to stay at home. A clean apron designates their afternoon "fixing up." A muskmelon crate with a pillow thrown in the bottom is brought out to help care for the overflow of babies. Now in the afternoon the conversation is accompanied by the click of the knitting needles or the flash of the crochet needle as the sweater or the lace grows inch by inch.

As evening draws near the factory whistles blow. The trolleys and the jitneys soon begin to drop the men and the girls at the home corner. The local grocer, barber, butcher and baker are making their way home. The grocer stops to greet a fellow grocer; the barber is escorted by his youngest son; the butcher strides along, slams his gate and disappears from view. The baker greets his neighbor as he passes, stops within the gateway to inspect the oncoming lettuce and to pick a flower for his button hole. The street quiets down; a passerby hears the clatter of dishes, the mingling of voices, catches the odor of favorite dishes.

Seven o'clock comes and once more familiar figures appear and settle themselves in almost the identical spots as in the afternoon. Children are more numerous now, for some cannot return to the playgrounds after supper, and men in shirt sleeves with hats pushed far back on their heads and smoking their favorite brand form a part of every group.

Upon a scene like this the sun goes down and the stars shine out, day in and day out.

Something The fifteenth day of July, 1919 was beginning
New like most of its predecessors, when at ten o'clock
in the morning it was taken by surprise. A big truck piled high with a sectional band stand, chairs and a dry battery lighting apparatus, drove up the block, stopped midway and backed up in front of one of the courtyards. The driver and four men on the seat with him scrambled down and began to unload the sectional bandstand. The children appeared as if shaken down from the clouds; the groups of threes and fives stopped talking and turned their baby carriages wagonward. Soon they knew the whole story. The Board of Recreation was going to have a band concert that night, right on their very block. For an hour or so local gossip lost its charm and the playground around the corner, its power to attract. Friendly interest and helpfulness attended upon the putting up of the bandstand. At dinner time the event of the evening was the main topic of conversation. The children on the way back to the playground stopped to have a rest and an impromptu meeting at the bandstand. Girls and men as they got back to the

BLOCK PARTIES AND STREET DANCES

factory and the shop spread the news and extended the invitation, "Better come along."

Everyone Ready Supper was ready that night on time and before 7:00 o'clock had been anywhere nearly reached, dishes were washed or stacked. Old and young

dressed in their summer best were out in the yard, the first or second story porch, or strolling along the walks. Guests, hurriedly invited, were arriving and being welcomed. At 7:30 a tall man (a Community Song Leader) appeared carrying song sheets. As soon as the ropes were up that were to keep the dancers' space free, the tall man, accompanied by a swarm of youngsters and a few of the older group, sang community songs for fifteen minutes.

On with the Dance At eight o'clock the tall man bowed to the band leader and under the direction of the latter the next hour was filled with the music of the brasses.

Then sounded the reveille, the signal for the street to be cleared, and the dancers to find their partners. The waltz, familiar to the greatest number, brought out the couples from all around the line. The fox trot and the one step were not so popular but when the second waltz came the original group plus an additional fifty couples were out to enjoy it. The crowd of about 2,000 behind the ropes or on the curb hummed or whistled an accompaniment. Mothers with little ones asleep in their arms, looked on with eyes that had brightened during the last two hours. The men had lost, to a large degree, their languor.

A Good Time for Young and Old The children under fourteen, finding it hard to sit still on the curbing had been sent to the farther end of the roped space which they were told they might have all for themselves. This space was immediately as popular as the grownups'. Ten o'clock came and without warning the band stood, struck up the *Star Spangled Banner*, and all was over for this time. Casually the crowd broke, but as individuals or small groups of young and old singled out one of the Board of Recreation leaders, all had practically the same questions, "Teacher-Mister, when is the next one coming?" Even an old Italian grandmother, wrinkled and stooped, stood waiting at her gateway for the worker to pass her way. "Nice! Nice!" she exclaimed, "Me like—my man he like too! Come tomorrow night, too, please."

The Board of Recreation, realizing that requests of this kind would come from the various sections, had plans ready to suggest. So when the question came the workers made this answer, "We cannot bring another band concert this summer, but I'll tell you

BLOCK PARTIES AND STREET DANCES

what we will do. Listen, how would you like an orchestra dance every two weeks or so, with the orchestra right in the street," "Good," "Ah!" "That's all right" and similar expressions came from the people. So the orchestra dance came into the Grand Street section.

How It Is Done

A picture of this Italian section has been drawn because of its local color but a description of any district—American or non-American—of the city of Bridgeport would reveal an equal amount of enthusiasm for the Block Party. For \$10.00 or \$12.00 per night groups ranging from 1000 to 2500 people find fun, comradeship and an opportunity to dance near home. Streets that are paved, little used for traffic and well lighted, are used. If the street chosen has stores bordering it, the owners contribute their window lights, and a family fortunate enough to have a porch light switches it on. Light for the orchestra is provided by a single electric torch. Policemen along the side lines add dignity and give the assurance that all will be well. Board of Recreation workers wearing arm bands are supervisors and hostesses of the occasion.

Expanding the Block Party

The first time that a block party was held in a new section the Community Service Commission asked the privilege of sending certain demonstrators and a storyteller and fortune teller whom they were anxious to present to the Bridgeport public. Space for such demonstrations and entertainers was provided near the roped-off space. In many sections the public library demonstrations aroused much interest that resulted in membership. Mothers were interested in the home economics and the visiting nurses' demonstration. Children stopped enroute to the dance section for a story. Dancers arriving during the community singing paused for the fortune teller to outline their fate. Many of the block parties after a fifteen minute sing had a one feature program, dancing (of course with visiting on the sidelines). Occasionally entertaining local features were introduced such as pantomime songs by the children of the district, folk dancing in costume, tableaux, a comedian and a cartoonist. For the last two a playground equipment box and the neighboring grocer's wagon were used respectively as platforms.

Recipe for a Block Party

Five chairs, 200 to 300 feet of rope, four piece orchestra, two or more policemen, a red lantern or two, an electric torch, a good street and an arc light or a fireman's flare, a newspaper notice, and supervisors who can dance!

The Village Where They Have Good Times

ANNA E. McCLOSKEY.

Secretary, Fayville Village Society

Fayville is a small section of the town of Southboro, Massachusetts, a typical little New England village, half way between the cities of Boston and Worcester. It has a population of about three hundred and fifty and is prettily situated between beautiful hills and valleys, the Metropolitan Water Reservoir and Fayville Dam giving it an added beauty. It is a village of modest country homes and of conservative people, most of whose ancestors were among the early settlers. As there is no industry here, the male population are commuters to the cities of either Boston or Marlboro and the town of Framingham; a number of our families have moved here from Boston and other cities and still retain their city ways.

Though small in size, Fayville is known as "the village where they have good times." In 1910, The Fayville Village Society was formed at the home of one of the residents whose sister, a teacher in New Bedford, called together her neighbors to discuss the idea of a neighborhood or community club. The Fayville Village Society was the result, and from its formation it has filled a long felt want and has gone far toward promoting a spirit of cooperation and neighborliness. Much has been accomplished both in improving the section of the town known as Fayville and in furthering the social welfare of the community.

A Community Building the First Accomplishment.

One of the first and best things accomplished was the building of a hall in which to hold meetings and have good times, the Vestry of the Baptist Church where we first met having proven inadequate. It took some diplomacy on the part of the Committee which was empowered to go before the voters of the other sections of the town to convince them of the necessity of such a building, but they succeeded in their efforts and on April 12th, 1912, the hall was dedicated and the public invited to inspect the building. An orchestra from Boston furnished

THE VILLAGE WHERE THEY HAVE GOOD TIMES

music for dancing and refreshments were served, the expense being borne by the Committee.

The hall which was built at a cost of \$8,500 is two stories high with a gable roof. On the top floor is a dance hall with a stage and a fine piano and in the rear is an ante-room used for checking clothing. Downstairs on the left is a room fitted up as a branch of the public library which is opened on Wednesdays and Saturdays; pretty draperies at the windows and pictures on the walls are the gifts of our Society. Next comes the ladies' room or parlor furnished in mission style furniture, with all necessary toilet accessories. A kitchen with fine range, a closet with dishes to use for suppers, and all articles found in a modern home for the convenience of workers, are found here. A large room the entire length of the building is used by the G. A. R. Post for meetings, and the Village Society has the use of it whenever needed. The hall has answered other purposes, being used as a place for services of the Baptist Church Society ever since its church was destroyed by fire in 1915.

Good Times at The hall has been the scene of many a good time.
the Commun- The first entertainment given in the building was
ity Building a Cantata—*A Golden Day*—presented by the children under the direction of one of our members. We have had certain annual entertainments such as minstrel shows, harvest parties or barn dances, amateur nights, with plays and vaudeville acts, children's night, costume parties, and the one big time of the year—a waltz party—when the majority of the people attending wear evening dress. At most of our affairs we make some money but the waltz party never yields any. As it is one of the jolliest occasions of the season and attracts the largest attendance the decorations, music, and favors use up all the proceeds.

On children's night, always held just before Christmas, the children themselves usually furnish the entertainment, but last year through the courtesy of one of the residents of Southboro, a moving picture show was given them. When the children of the primary school give us their Christmas entertainment the hall is always filled with admiring parents and friends and everyone enjoys a pleasant and amusing evening. We have a number of Italian families here; the children are very bright and attractive and it is a pleasure to watch their animated faces as they sing and recite. The Christmas tree with gifts for every child of school age as well as for the little tots who come with their mothers, and free ice-

THE VILLAGE WHERE THEY HAVE GOOD TIMES

cream, cake and candy make this one of our most popular evenings.

The annual costume party is another great attraction which brings a large attendance each year. People come from all the surrounding towns, prizes are given and it is astonishing how much individuality and resourcefulness our members show from year to year in providing new costumes.

Our minstrel shows have been very fine. We have been fortunate in having members who have had experience in training young people for such affairs, and our tickets have been all sold two weeks in advance of the show. For the past two years we have been unable to hold a minstrel show as our boys were all in service, but now that they are home again we expect to have a show during the winter.

Last year we held a class of instruction in dancing, and for the small amount of twenty-five cents, a pupil received a lesson of one and a half hours in class and could practice the lesson for another hour and a half. A large number of our Italian boys and girls took advantage of this opportunity to learn dancing; the class was self-supporting and the young people are looking forward to another class this winter. We find that whist parties are enjoyed by a number of people who do not care to dance. We have had both military and progressive whist parties several times a year and have given prizes to stimulate interest and create fun.

Serving the Community

The hall was used during the war as a place of meeting for our Red Cross Auxiliary, and though our members were few we really accomplished a great deal in the line of knitting and sewing garments for hospital use, as well as making clothes for the refugee children over seas. In addition we collected a weekly fund to support our work from every family rich and poor in Fayville. During the influenza epidemic last year our hall was used as a Red Cross hospital, and never was better work done. There were two Red Cross nurses working under the doctor's direction; all other workers were volunteers. Tents were placed outside on the grounds and the patients who came from all parts of the town were given every care and comfort. As a result the proportion of deaths was very small.

Our Society has made some progress along the line of civic improvement. We have had swings, sand piles, and teeter boards placed on the playground for the benefit of the children, have had a waste paper barrel placed on the main street and have tried to have the children take pride in keeping the street clean. The Boston

THE VILLAGE WHERE THEY HAVE GOOD TIMES

and Worcester street railway passes through our village and passengers frequently throw newspapers and refuse out of the open cars. It is gratifying to see some of our little Italian children placing these in the waste barrel.

We have been instrumental in having the railroad station painted twice, have planted shrubbery around the hall and have been quite successful in teaching the little ones who live near that they must not destroy it. We feel that our best accomplishment in civic work was in getting the town to buy a piece of property which adjoined the land on which our hall is situated, and on which an "old shack" known as "the paper house" stood. This building had been erected to accommodate the Italian laborers at the time the Metropolitan Reservoir was made. It was covered with tar paper, torn, tattered and ugly bill posters were plastered on the part facing the railroad, and unsightly outbuildings, amongst them a pig pen, came close to our hall. This hut was rented by a poor family, who paid an exorbitant price for the privilege of existing in its squalid quarters. We succeeded in getting the Board of Health to condemn it as unfit for human habitation. For months it stood idle, and the owner refused to sell unless he received a prohibitive price. It was finally seized by the town as a menace to life and property—the owner was paid a fair price, the buildings torn down and grass now grows where filth had reigned so long.

We have had some evenings of instructions, bird talks and lectures—one notable evening Mr. Charles F. Choate, an eminent lawyer of Southboro, gave us a talk on Abraham Lincoln. We had observed both Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays with patriotic evenings.

Birthday Parties—Last year one of our meeting nights fell on February 14th, which is also the birthday of our first president, Mr. Francis Wright, one of our G. A. R. veterans and Fayville's leading citizen—our "grand old man" who was seventy-eight years of age. We planned a "Valentine Whist Party" and asked his family to postpone his usual birthday party so that he could be present. He was unaware of any preparations in his honor. Whist was played until 10, the prizes of valentines were given and all was apparently over when a table all decorated with pink and white hearts, a beautiful flowering plant of pink cyclamen and a huge birthday cake decorated in pink and white was placed before him. His surprise was complete and he could scarcely respond when called upon for "a speech." It happened to be the

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birthday of two other members of the Society and they were each presented with cakes and all three sat together at the head table. The whist tables were used by the other members and soon all were enjoying the refreshments of cake, coffee and frozen pudding. It was like a cabaret, for whenever an appealing piece of music was given on the victrola, everyone who could dance, jumped up and took a partner. It was indeed a pleasure to see young and old enjoying themselves, especially in the Virginia Reel. The committee in charge of this affair were all members whose birthdays came in February. It is said that our most gifted people are born in February—we are sure of it!

A Welcome Home Celebra- tion

On Flag Day, June 14th, 1918, we gave a Welcome Home supper and reception to all of the boys from all parts of the town who had returned from the United States service. A bountiful supper was served to each boy and his guest, the "older boys" of the G. A. R., the clergymen, and select men of the town. The hall and tables were beautifully decorated with flags and flowers; pretty girls, of whom we have a goodly number, waited upon our guests, and all did justice to the good things provided. An entertainment and dancing followed. It was a most successful evening; rich and poor mingled together. Members of some of Massachusetts' old Colonial families were seen dancing with the boys and girls whose parents come from Sunny Italy and the little "Emerald Isle." All seemed to have the same happy purpose to make the boys feel that they were indeed welcome back to home and friends. We have placed a Roll of Honor in the front entry of our hall, for all the boys of Fayville who were in the U. S. Service as well as those who were members of our Society when they answered "the call to colors" and have made these latter honorary members for life without further payment of dues.

Team Play the Secret

People often wonder how we are able to get together all classes and creeds, and to have such good time in our little hall. We do not wish to imply that Fayville is an ideal community, nor to give the impression that everyone in town is a member of our Society—far from it! We have whole families who have never attended an affair of any kind held in our hall, but people of that kind are found in all places—they take no interest in anything which would require any effort on their part or the expenditure of money, and are purely selfish beings, who do not care to mingle with their neighbors.

COMRADES IN PLAY

Neither would we wish to give the impression that what we have been able to accomplish has been done without any friction. We are human, and like children have made mistakes. We have been "mad" and have resolved we would not "play any more," but some of us have been "big" enough to "forget it," and to keep the idea in mind that our society is worth more to the community than anybody's feelings, that it is only by cooperation that anything great is ever accomplished, and that all great movements have had to overcome criticism and opposition.

We are limited in one way for we have placed our dues at only fifty cents a year in order that everyone may belong. Our hall rent of fifty dollars a year takes the dues of one hundred members; our entertainments are never given at a cost of more than fifty cents, often less, so that we never have a great amount of money in our treasury and consequently cannot do very much. Our workers are all volunteers who serve without pay and our success so far has been due to their untiring, unselfish work.

We are approaching our tenth anniversary and are already planning a fitting celebration. We expect to have a banquet free to the members. Now that we have passed to almost a decade of years and have the largest membership in our history, we feel that it is time for us to do more serious work and that while we can meet to have good times we can and should do more for our community's young people.

Comrades in Play

ABBIE CONDIT

Community Service (Incorporated)

[Continued from THE PLAYGROUND FOR JANUARY]

II

Game Evenings Interest in dancing should not be permitted to usurp the place of other forms of entertainment and care should be taken that dancing is not over emphasized in planning a program.

The social value of games is unquestioned, and everything possible should be done by community workers to make the playing of well chosen games a part of the program.

COMRADES IN PLAY

With careful planning in advance, an evening of games can be made a most happy and successful affair. Too often these occasions fall flat because no capable people are on hand to act as leaders, and young men and young women feel shy and awkward about entering into the games. The successful engineering of social affairs, as has been pointed out in *Social Games and Dances*, depends largely on a committee who must consider and prepare a rather definite program, and upon a leader who must specifically direct the activities of the group. Much depends upon the qualifications and tact of the leader. He should himself possess the social instinct, and be of good address and temperament, free from formality. The spirit of comradeship and friendship is essential. The leader should tactfully lead in the activities and not drive them.

Very often when people who do not know one another begin to play games together there is much of shyness and selfconsciousness to be eliminated. This will be accomplished most easily by selecting games which call for quick activity and initiative on the part of all the players. For example, such games as *Posing*, *Going to Jerusalem*, *Slap Jack in Couples*, *Cats and Rats*, *Dodge Ball*, *Singing Proverbs*, *Black and White*, *Hands Up*, *Three Deep* and the like are better for the purpose than those in which one player is made conspicuous as in *Orchestra*, *Beast*, *Bird or Fish*, and *Rhymes*. Since a very important purpose of games lies in the coordination of groups, it is unwise in a mixed gathering to choose games which use part of the players for the entertainment of others, or which introduce the kind of horse play which makes one player the butt of the joke.

It is necessary in an evening of games to devise easy methods of forming introductions, and of breaking up the company into small groups, as must be done in large gatherings. Simple expedients may be used, such as having each person wear in plain sight a card on which his name is written, or grouping individuals according to the month in which they were born, according to colors given each person, or according to the states, cities, or countries from which they come. Another device consists of pinning on the back of each person the name of a well-known man or woman, the individual so labelled being required to guess by the questions asked him by other guests, who it is he is representing. These devices go far to promote a spirit of informality and good fellowship which must characterize these gatherings.

Some of the games suggested as excellent social activities for young men and women are the following:

COMRADES IN PLAY

Up Jenkins	I packed my trunk for Paris
Simon Says	Proverbs
Twenty Questions	Magic Music
Dumb Crambo	Spin the Platter
Animal Blind Man's	Winking
Bluff	Going to Jerusalem
Neighbor, Neighbor want	Stage Coach
to buy a rooster?	Bird, Beast or Fish
Buzz	Good Morning
The Minister's Cat	

Among the simple games and activities which have been found helpful in social education are the following:

Do This, Do That, for concentration.

Buzz, and the giving of words beginning with a certain letter, for mental agility.

Guessing who holds the coin after it has been passed continuously, for close observation.

Passing the Ball, Volley Ball, and a variety of contests, for speed, for physical agility and for accuracy of motion.

There are in addition to the innumerable games available a number of relays and races which can be made to contribute to a successful evening of games. Among these are *Eat a Cracker Relay*, *Weavers' Relay*, *Drive the Pig to Market*, *Peanut Relay*, *Potato Race*, and *Shuttle Relay*. Minstrel shows, dialogues, impersonations, monologues, and motion pictures are all forms of social activities which may well be used during the course of an evening's entertainment.

Some of the books on games which give exceedingly valuable suggestions for games and stunts of various kinds are to be found in Exhibit A of the appendix.

Additional Indoor Recreation Activities The old-fashioned spelling bee can be developed into a delightful party. A good idea is to have the young people come dressed as country school children in pinafores and overalls, carrying slates and pencils. The girls may each have a basket or pail filled with old-fashioned things to eat which they can later share with their partners. Appropriate prizes may be offered to the winners of the spelling contest, and the evening brought to a close with some of the old songs and country dances. The same idea might be developed in connection with the old singing school.

A debate on some humorous subject is another possibility, particularly if members of the group know each other fairly well. Al-

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though it is advisable to have two or three people prepared to start the ball rolling, the speeches should be largely extemporaneous. There are always several clever people in a gathering of this kind who can present some amusing arguments which provoke good natured banter. Care must be taken to keep the debate from becoming too personal, or in the slightest degree vulgar.

An unusually successful party was given not long ago at one of the Soldiers' Clubs in a city in Texas. The girls brought odds and ends to the club and the boys dressed in the costumes concocted from them. Prizes were awarded to the soldiers who were most successfully costumed. A worn velvet curtain, old tinsel Christmas tree trimmings and the chef's pancake turnover for a scepter made such a gorgeous King of No Man's Land that the soldier devising the costume won the first prize. A smock and grease paint made a splendid Bolshevik, while a sheet and a long white bandeau converted a plain American doughboy into a Roman charioteer.

The minstrel show has a never failing popularity and stimulates originality in the writing of local topical songs and stories. Then there are such old favorites as mock trials, charades, sleight-of-hand performances, basket and stunt parties, and progressive luncheons. The various holidays offer suggestions for original entertainments though this fact is too often overlooked.

The idea of leaving one night open at the community center is a good one. Various clubs may then reserve it for special parties or in case the evening is not taken an opportunity is afforded for an informal sort of get-together—a valuable thing in itself.

Swimming Parties. Swimming parties, though they must in many instances necessarily be indoors, may be a source of great enjoyment and much physical benefit. In this connection it is important to bear in mind the value of the "Learn to swim" weeks previously mentioned.

Recreation in Gymnasiums. Gymnasiums offer valuable facilities not only for gymnasium classes but for the playing of games of various kinds and other activities which young men and young women can enjoy together. (See Exhibit B for a list of games and activities.)

Folk dancing is another activity which may well be encouraged in gymnasiums and other available indoor centers. Among the folk dances suggested for mixed groups are the following:

American Contra Dances
The Circle

Sellenger's Round
"Come Let us Be Joyful"

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Virginia Reel	Nigarepolska
Old Dan Tucker	Seven Jumps
Square Dance	The Hatter
Quadrille	Little Man in a Fix
Minuet	Gotlands Quadrille
The Crested Hen	Gathering Peascods
Farandole	The Bridge of Avignon
Tarentella	Mountain March
Oxdans	Swedish Weaving Dance

Bowling is another form of indoor recreation which may very advantageously be developed for young men and women. Such features as tournaments arranged for the various bowling clubs add great interest to this form of recreation.

Hospitality Clubs and Special Activities for Strangers through Churches and Other Groups Very much can be done to develop the social resources of the churches. Church suppers and socials, through which a special effort is made to reach the young men and women who may be strangers in the city and not affiliated with any group, are important elements in meeting the craving for companionship for which social conditions so often provide no outlet. (See Exhibit C of Appendix for program for Church Entertainment.)

As one of the primary motives in War Camp Community Service was the development of hospitality and comradeship for the men in the service who were strangers in the city, so in the peace-time program it is of the utmost importance that young men and women who are newcomers to the city, detached from all social groups, shall have the opportunity to satisfy their hunger for social contacts with other young men and women.

Hospitality Clubs through which strangers are welcome are therefore a much needed activity. In Detroit such a club was started as the result of an advertisement in a local paper inserted by a lonely man who wanted friends. A member of a certain church answered the advertisement inviting this man and any other stranger to the Parish House on a specified evening. At that first club meeting seven strangers in the city were present. At the third meeting there was an attendance of 86, and the club is still growing. Through advertising and personal contacts a series of strangers' nights will draw a surprising number of lonely people desiring companionship. Community Service in New York City, building upon the experiences of the Girls' Division in war work, is making the motive of hospitality to strangers and people living in boarding and lodging houses function

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very largely in its program. The plan involves the bringing into affiliated relation with Community Service all the accessible groups of young women willing to incorporate in their program for the coming year the two following elements:

(1) They will make an effort to bring into their membership a certain proportion of young women who are living away from home.

(2) Once a month, at least, they will extend hospitality to a group of young men.

All activities will aim toward the promotion of comrade centers which will give expression in an organized way to a spirit of hospitality toward young people living away from home. Comrade Centers shall comprise one or more comrade units. The units will be made up of unorganized girls who are active in Comrade Clubs operating under War Camp Community Service, unorganized girls connected with Welcome Home Clubs, and organized clubs in settlements, churches and other agencies which are cooperating with War Camp Community Service.

Home Recreation It would be most unfortunate if, in developing a program of activities for young men and women, we should fail to take into account the unity of the family. With so many interests drawing young men here, girls there, and parents nowhere at all, there is danger of home ideals being lowered. Someone has suggested that home duties should count in service records, and that members of the unit might well tell at the club meetings of home evenings. Socials should be carried into the homes, and fireside recreation for small groups encouraged. There should be evenings, possibly once a month, when parents are entertained by certain of the units. It is well to develop through the units, activities for older members of the community and phases of recreation which will draw in the entire family. No more important service activity can be carried on by a group of young people than the development of home recreation for the entire family.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Dramatics Many workers feel that the development of the dramatic instinct is the most vital single factor in a program of joint activities, not only because of its artistic and cultural value, but because of the broad training which participation in dramatic activities gives to the individual. To accomplish creditable results along dramatic lines the direction of a competent leader is essential. Possibly the most valuable way of

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making a beginning lies in the organization of a mixed dramatic society. A plan which has been found successful in a number of places consists of presenting a series of one-act plays with different casts, having as the culminating dramatic event of the year a more ambitious production, possibly a three act play, in which the most talented players of each group take part. As the work develops—and here, there is opportunity for a carefully planned progressive program—it may broaden out into the establishment of a little theatre where the plays of local authors may be produced by talented young men and young women. It is important, too, that one dramatic unit of the group play occasionally for the benefit of the others. In any broad program of dramatics the pantomime should not be neglected. This is always a charming and delightful novelty.

(Some of the plays suggested as being particularly good for casts made up of young men and young women may be found in Exhibit D.)

Pageants and Special Celebrations. The pageant provides an excellent means for bringing young men and women together and giving them contacts with other members of the community. The time element involved, necessitating rehearsals over an extended period, makes possible the establishment of the personal contacts which are so important. (See Exhibit D for suggestions regarding pageants particularly well adapted for the use of young men and women.)

In the celebration of special holidays, young men and young women can play a very important part. It is essential that through Community Service (Incorporated) and all community groups, there shall be brought out the significance of certain national holidays which emphasize so fittingly various phases of citizenship. Among these special days are Election Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, July Fourth, Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Armistice Day. It has been suggested that the celebration of these special days might well lead up to a community Naturalization Day, celebrated on one of the holidays, which through appropriate ceremonies and exercises will emphasize the importance of citizenship.

A timely suggestion regarding costumes has been offered by an experienced community organizer. Ordinarily individuals retain the ownership of their costumes after the pageant or masque is over, and when a new activity is planned it becomes necessary to go through the work of securing new costumes incurring fresh expense and

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trouble. It is therefore suggested that after each event, all costumes be stored with the community organization that they may be available whenever occasions demand. After several pageants or masques have been given a large variety of different costumes will have been secured. In other words there may well be developed in connection with community drama a community property, costume, and scenery storehouse.

Music

The war has demonstrated the tremendous popularity of community singing. In most cities there is already laid a good foundation for the organization of community choruses and choral clubs. Such clubs made up of young men and young women can be made not only enjoyable for those taking part, but can perform a real service at community functions of various kinds.

Musical Clubs. The organization of musical clubs make possible singing group contests which offer possibilities for very interesting events. Such a contest may be held at one of the large public schools, any singing club being allowed to enter. The five clubs which prove themselves successful are chosen to furnish the program for the evening.

Orchestras. The orchestra, which may be composed of both young men and women, provides another medium for combining the recreational and artistic. When such an organization has had the advantage of sufficient training and practice under a good director, it can become a real factor in community entertainment. A stimulus for serious work is found in planning for the year a series of concerts, the programs of which shall include talented soloists. The orchestra may be regarded as almost indispensable in connection with a great many of the large community activities such as holiday festivals, pageants, dramatics, dances and sings. It can be made a valuable accessory to an evening of motion pictures. Instead of having the rather hackneyed piano accompaniment to the movies at the community center the help of the orchestra and one or two good soloists might effect a transformation in the evening's program. In the organization of such an orchestra an effort should be made to lay a foundation for community-wide education in good music. Good music is always appreciated, but the opportunity to hear it is often denied a community. The orchestra may be used as a basis for a broader development, perhaps along the line of a civic music federation. As a means for providing a wholesome intellectual interest for its members, and as a real service to the community at

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large, the value of the orchestra cannot be over-emphasized.

Music Study Clubs. There is, too, the club organized solely for the study of music. Each meeting may be given over to a special study of oratorios, operas and other forms of musical expression, these being illustrated by selections from the compositions under discussion.

The following club plan was worked out very successfully in a southern community. Grand Opera was the primary study of the group organized for the study of music, but unfortunately there was little opportunity for the people of the community to hear opera. The city was little visited by artists and many of the citizens were quite unfamiliar with the compositions of the great masters. With this in mind the program of each evening was planned to include a sketch of the life of the composer, a story of one of his operas and an interesting bit of information regarding the circumstances under which it was written. There was also included a brief history of certain stars who had made great artistic success in the various roles with a little story of the period and country in which the opera story was centered.

The proprietor of one of the city's music stores who specialized in the sale of victrolas and opera records was made a member of the club and in return for the use of his victrolas and records, members of the club made it a point to introduce to his shop possible purchasers. Frequently the program of these musical evenings was published in the newspaper and visitors were always welcome. These programs proved a boon to many lovers of music who never had the opportunity to visit the opera centers and the members of the club were constantly under the stimulus of doing something of educational value to the city.

A plan similar to this was tried out in another small city by a woman who entertained her neighbors and friends at porch parties where opera records were played and described in an informal way by people who knew the story of the operas.

From such small beginnings as these, the taste for good music is cultivated. Groups of young people studying in this way might easily be instrumental in bringing to their home towns the best artists by stimulating the sale of tickets and helping in various other ways to finance such ventures. Reference or text books on music are usually available at public libraries but books not to be found there might be purchased by the club. A small membership fee would provide a fund for this purpose.

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The war has demonstrated beyond a doubt the need for building up our national physique. Because outdoor activities develop not only health and strength, but grace and ease of manner, a broad and varied program of outdoor activities should be promoted.

Hiking

While the hike is a very simple form of outdoor recreation it is a highly beneficial exercise and can be made most enjoyable and interesting.

Organizations such as the Mountaineers of Washington, the Mazamas of Oregon and the Appalachian Walking Club of the East have created a wide enthusiasm for walking, and every possible effort should be made to further this interest.

In preparing for hikes, too much emphasis cannot be placed on the wearing of proper costumes, particularly by young women whose enthusiasm is often quickly dampened because their clothing and shoes are not appropriate for walking. Greater interest is aroused when the walk is scouted, with a leader in charge and a definite program outlined. The progressive element should always enter into hiking; each walk should be a little longer than the preceding one and should test the ability of the walker to maintain certain standards.

If a community can maintain a camp or lodge at some distance from the town which can be used as a destination for all-day or week-end hiking parties, a great deal of interest will be added. Such a place can very often be secured at small cost and the up-keep would be slight. Where municipal summer camps are maintained, week-end trips may well be arranged at least once during the season.

An interesting feature consists in combining walking with nature study, with talks given by individuals who can present their subjects in an attractive way. It is also suggested that zest is given to hiking parties if the young men and women have previously been drilled in military tactics so that they may occasionally march in formation singing popular songs.

A great many walking clubs have found it valuable to work out in connection with their trips a series of maps showing the condition of the roads, points of interest, places where fires can be built, water secured and food cooked.

The hiking club will find it interesting to have during the winter season an occasional dinner followed by a Kodak-Travelogue, when pictures taken on hikes are projected on a screen or passed about.

COMRADES IN PLAY

Motor Trips Week-end motor trips for large groups are rather a novelty, and during the very warm weather are more enjoyable than long hikes. It should be possible to secure cars from interested citizens in the community.

Riding Clubs Riding clubs are not so numerous as they should be. They are quite easily organized in rural communities, and even in the cities horses may be had at special rates when large groups ride together at regular intervals.

Water Sports The great desirability of securing the use of indoor swimming pools has already been mentioned. Every possible opportunity should be developed for outdoor swimming during the summer season with the arrangement of swimming instruction. Where there are beaches, beach parties with food cooked over the campfire, or basket lunches provided by the young women, are delightful forms of entertainment.

Very jolly rowing, sailing, and motorboat parties can be arranged with little trouble, and a fishing expedition might prove a novelty for a group of young men and women.

Tennis Clubs One of the most popular outdoor activities to be developed is tennis, with the possibilities it affords for tennis clubs and tournaments.

With the many forms of athletics, games and races which can be enjoyed by young men and women, picnics can be made very successful. A novel variation in a picnic program is suggested in kite-flying contests. The young men in their spare moments construct kites out of cigar strips, costing about ten cents a bundle. A kite flying contest is held, with prizes for the winners.

Lawn parties with games and music and with a setting of Japanese lanterns if the party is held at night, make a pleasant diversion.

Hay Rack Rides Hayrack rides may be organized by using old, wide spreading wagon racks or loads of hay or grain. Where wagons are not available it may be permissible to use automobiles, but the farmer or "rube" character of the party may well be preserved by requiring cheap straw hats, gingham aprons and overalls.

Block Parties Block parties, if they are properly managed and supervised, may well supersede indoor dancing during the summer. A city block having a smooth asphalt surface should be roped off with the permission of the city authorities and be made a neighborhood dance floor for certain

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evening hours. The houses along the block may be prettily decorated with Japanese lanterns and other lights. Ice cream and soft drinks may be sold at moderate prices.

**Utilization of
Playgrounds and
Vacant Spaces** Where there are city playgrounds they should be utilized to the full during evening hours for young men and young women. Volley ball, playground ball, croquet, roque, and folk dancing are activities which young men and women can play together. Nine Court Basket Ball, in which boys and girls play in the same game, may also be developed for young men and women. The game of quoits may be made exceedingly interesting for young men and women playing together. (See Exhibit B for additional games and activities which may be enjoyed out-of-doors.)

If there are no playgrounds, or if the grounds are not advantageously located, vacant lots or free spaces in parks may be utilized. A box such as has been devised by Community Service in Chester, for carrying around equipment greatly facilitates the development of vacant lot play.

Winter Sports The winter months afford opportunity in certain sections of the country for skating, sleigh riding, tobogganing and coasting parties. It always adds greatly to the enjoyment of such parties if after several hours of outdoor sport, a house can be secured where the party may go to crack nuts, pop corn, play games and enjoy music.

To Be Continued

Why Girls' Work?

In answer to the above question, often asked by investigators of Community Service, Mrs. Charlotte Farnsworth recently gave the following explanation:

In reply to your question as to what reasons might be given business men asking why there should be a special division of girls' work in Community Service, I should say, because girls are a part of the community and our organization aims to suggest plans for the leisure time of the entire community, both sexes, all ages.

Perhaps the term "girls' work" carries with it the idea of work done for girls, and implies that special work is being done by our

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organization for girls—that they are being picked out and favored. This is contrary to the facts, for girls' work as conducted by our organization is work *by* the girls given to the community, rather than work *for* the girls. When there are special clubs and classes for girls alone, they are used to prepare the girls for more intelligent service.

If the names of our different kinds of work were a little more exact, instead of having a division of girls' work, we should have a division of young people's work, which would include such activities as dancing, dramatics, singing, hikes, and certain educational classes—all of which are participated in jointly by young men and young women.

Besides this, for juniors, there would be a boys' division with vocational classes, such as carpentry and mechanics. Boys should have separate gymnasium classes. In the same way, there should be a division of girls with vocational classes, emphasizing such subjects as cooking and sewing. Girls also should have separate gymnasium work.

One of our workers to whom this question was put responded, "Because the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

Attached are a few illustrations showing how our work with girls is bearing fruit in the community.

The Girls of the Community

Not all this newly-awakened zeal for betterment and service that is ascribed to the returning soldier belongs only to the young men; the girls' experience in War Camp Community Service has given the girls their share. These are some ways in which it is being applied.

Service to the Community

It is the girls of the community who are becoming the community leaders in recreation.

So the people of Frankford and Kensington in Philadelphia will tell you. These girls, workers of the large textile mills, who have planned and accomplished the welcome home celebrations for the soldiers, are now able to direct community night entertainments for Jim's father and mother and little sisters and brothers, as well as for the returned hero himself.

Moving pictures in the school yard and a community orchestra

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for the young men and their young hostesses furnished a good beginning in Frankford and Kensington. The girls have cultivated a neighborhood friendliness among these families, and the fathers and mothers who willingly inscribed their names to support community activities are making these districts centers of friendliness. The fathers organized a baseball team to play the small boys who relish a chance to "put one over on dad," and the mothers come to the school center to serve their home made refreshments prepared for the soldier dances and the girls' parties.

Whatever the occasion, the people of the district have come to depend on the efforts of the girls' group for its success. And Philadelphia is by no means the only sample in the annals of Community Service where the activities of the girls' clubs, patriotic and general, have become so inextricably bound up with community activity and community welfare that to lessen them would be to lessen the output of neighborly service.

Service to a Neglected Group

The men and women at the Home for the Aged in Perth Amboy believe the Girls' Club merits an extra blessing for the glimpse of gaiety that was given them one afternoon. The money which the girls earned for service purposes at the theatre benefit could not have been expended with a higher return of appreciation, for these old folks were delighted with the chance to sing old familiar songs under the leadership of a singer whom the girls engaged, to watch the folk dancing done by the girls, and as the climax of a good time, to join in the Virginia Reel.

For Convalescent Soldiers

What recreation does the convalescent soldier desire more than to dance, or play games, or chat with the splendid girls organized into groups by War Camp Community Service to entertain the returned soldier? If it is a boat trip, the girls are present to dance with the men, sometimes the only physical exercise they are able to enjoy, to share the lunches which they have provided, and to join in the singing that is always a part of the homeward trip.

A committee of the Service Department of the Girls' Division in Milwaukee found on visiting the reconstruction hospital, "Rest Haven," that there were about 150 boys in actual need of recreation and educational activities. The committee not only recruited volunteer vocational helpers, set up a temporary vocational equipment through the aid of the Red Cross, but secured a vocational expert to teach the men. Their need for amusement was

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too great to be neglected. One of the Girls' League units assumed charge of the duty of enlivening the men's tedium. Eighty girls now go to "Rest Haven" every two weeks to dance with the men and to put on "stunts" for their benefit. The Girls' Division made arrangements and suggested ways and means of sending an 8th Ward Boys' Baseball Team to "Rest Haven," this to be a regular feature of the recreation program. The men at the hospital are fast calling for balls and bats remarking: "This is the stuff that puts pep into us, this, and the dances with those League girls."

In Prescott, Arizona, the result of girls' activities has been to inspire a wish among the men that birthdays came oftener than once a year. The Birthday Club has a complete list of the birthdays of the men, and when the festive occasion comes around a birthday cake with candles, a gift, a personal letter from some member of the club, go to the lucky one. The Adoption Club in another city, has arranged for each of its members to "adopt" a patient in a nearby hospital whom she visits weekly taking him home-made goodies or a new magazine and taking a personal interest in him.

Soldiers' Appreciation

When the news came to Norwich, Conn., that W. C. C. S. activities were about to close there and that therefore the Girls' Club might close also, Headquarters received several letters. Here is an example.

Dear Sir:

We the sailors and marines of the U. S. Submarine Base at New London respectfully request that you withhold your decision in closing the War Camp Community Service now being operated in Norwich. This request pertains in particular to the Community Center for Girls of this service, which has proved itself a large factor in providing a good clean and enjoyable entertainment for all of the men now located at the above station.

We would cite a few facts that may serve you in rendering your decision. At the time of this writing the complement of our station is fast being recuperated to its maximum strength. The attitude of the people is such as not to invite the enlisted personnel of this vicinity into their midst.

An entirely different attitude is maintained by the Norwich Club and can be witnessed by the ever increasing at-

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tendance of all of their social affairs * * * Enclosed you will find signatures of a small per cent of the men of this Base certifying the above facts.

Yours truly,

(The names of 350 men follow this letter)

The Returned Soldiers' Attitude

The attitude toward proper dancing has been fostered most effectively through the girls' groups. The rules for the proper position to be assumed in dancing laid down by W. C. C. S. have had some effect on the men's sense of discrimination. That soldiers have been permanently affected by this attitude of the girl is proved by a story from Minneapolis. One boy who was not a member of the Floor Committee was wearing the special badge, and when asked if he were serving officially he said, "No, but I just noticed a couple that were dancing terrible and I just couldn't stand for it, so I put on a badge and called them down."

Community In- terest Centered.

The activities of the Girls' Clubs have been the means of proving that the community is capable of doing things together as a community. In Patterson Park (suburb of Baltimore) the whole town was interested from the beginning in the play which the newly-formed Girls' Dramatic Club was preparing in September. The fathers, mothers and children who were present at the try-outs seemed as interested in the preparations as they were in the finished performance. The entertainment included a series of tableaux in which civilians starred, a stunt by the discharged men's orchestra, music by the men's quartette and by the Girls' Glee Club. When it was over, the community had gained a sense of neighborliness and independence.

In North Aberdeen, Washington, it was recreation instead of dramatics that gave a new impetus to friendliness in the town. There was need of tennis courts for the girls who had become interested in this sport through their contact with W. C. C. S. activities. Since many of the club members wished to play, several men of North Aberdeen built a court and now the people are becoming keenly interested in the possibilities of developing their own community through their own efforts.

The Pageant's Place in the Community

The value of pageantry in giving an impetus to community spirit is so well recognized that the pageant sometimes constitutes the initial step in organizing community service. The Girls' Division of W. C. C. S.

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in Seattle achieved such noteworthy success in organizing an indifferent community to take part in their pageant *Seattle, Seaport of Progress* that among girls' activities henceforth, the pageant must have a place as contributing to the cementing of community interest. Nearly one hundred soldiers and sailors and twelve hundred girls and women took part in this pageant which was presented before 25,000 people.

The girls' group planned the pageant and provided the enthusiastic spirit which carried the work along to success. The young women secured donations from thirty various firms in the city in the form of music, hardware, costumes, trucks; persuaded citizens to serve on committees of music, properties, art, and others, and induced groups of French, Scotch, Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish and Russian people to represent their own nations in the pageant.

A Catalogue of Play Equipment*

The *Catalogue of Play Equipment*, published by the Bureau of Educational Experiments, contains specifications for the construction of home-made apparatus for use in play schools, or the development of backyard play, for children of four, five and six years, some of the apparatus being of interest to children as old as eight years. The equipment described in the catalogue, which has been in use for several years in the Play School of the Bureau of Educational Experiments, was constructed at a minimum expense by a local carpenter. All figures which are given are for outside activities. The Bureau recommends that all the apparatus, with the exception of the see-saw board and sliding board should be painted, especially on the parts which are to be put into the ground.

1. THE SEE-SAW

BOARD—Straight grain lumber, $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x 9" x 12'-0". Two cleats $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 9" bolted to the under side of the board to act as a socket on the hip of the horse.

HORSE—Height 25". Length $22\frac{1}{2}$ ". Spread of feet at ground 20". Legs built of 2" x 3" material. Hip of 2" x 3" material. Brace under hip of $\frac{7}{8}$ " material.

* Published by the Bureau of Educational Experiments, 16 West 8th Street, New York City, New York, 1918.

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2. THE STAND SLIDE

STAND OR PLATFORM—26" wide, 30" long, 5'-4" high. Top made of $1\frac{3}{8}$ " tongue and groove material. Uprights or legs of 2" x 3" material. Cleats nailed to front legs $6\frac{1}{4}$ " apart to form ladder are of $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ " material. Cross bracing of $\frac{7}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{4}$ " material. Apron under top made of $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 5" material nailed about $1\frac{1}{8}$ " below to act as additional bracing and provide place of attachment for iron hooks secured to sliding board. The stand is fastened to the ground by dogs or pieces of wood buried deep enough (about 3') to make it secure.

SLIDE—Straight grain piece of lumber, $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x 12" x 12'-0". Two hooks at upper end of sliding board are of iron, about $\frac{3}{8}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", set at a proper angle to prevent board from becoming loose. Hooks are about $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long.

3. THE SWINGING ROPE

UPRIGHT—3" x 3" x 6'-9".

TOP PIECE—3" x 3" x 2'-9".

Upright and top piece are mortised or halved and bolted together. Bracing at top (3" x 3" x $20\frac{1}{2}$ " at long point of mitre cuts) is nailed to top piece and upright at an angle of about 45 degrees. Upright rests on a base measuring 3'. This is mortised together and braced with 2" x 3" material about 20" long, set at an angle of about 60 degrees. Unless there are facilities for bracing at the top, the upright should be made longer and buried about 3' in the ground. The swinging rope ($\frac{3}{4}$ " dia.) passes through a hole bored in the top piece and held in place by a knot. Successive knots tied 8" to 9" apart and a big knot at the bottom make swinging easier for little folks.

4. THE TRAPEZE

TWO UPRIGHTS—3" x 3" x 6'-10".

TOP PIECE—3" x 3" x 2'-10".

Ends of top piece secured to uprights by being mortised or halved and bolted together. Uprights rest on bases of 2" x 3" material, 3'-7" long, connected by a small platform in the form of an H. Bases and uprights are bolted to dogs or pieces of wood 2" x 4" x 5'-8" set in the ground about 3'. Adjustable bar (round) $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter. Three holes bored in each upright provide for the adjustable bar. The first hole is 3' above ground; the second 3' 5", the third 3' 10". Swing bar (round), $1\frac{3}{8}$ " dia., is 20" long. Should hang about 16" below top piece. Two holes $\frac{5}{8}$ " diameter bored in the top piece receive a continuous rope attached to the swing bar by

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being knotted after passing through holes ($\frac{5}{8}$ " dia.) in each end of the bar.

5. THE LADDER AND SUPPORT

LADDER—14" x 10'-2". Sides of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " material. Rungs $\frac{1}{4}$ " dia. set $10\frac{1}{4}$ " apart. At upper ends of the sides a U-shaped cut acts as a hook for attaching the ladder to the cross bar of the support. These ends are reinforced with iron to prevent splitting.

SUPPORT—Height 4'-6". Spread of uprights at base 4'-2". Uprights of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " material are secured to a foot ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4" x $20\frac{1}{2}$ ") with braces ($11\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 12") set at an angle of about 60 degrees. Tops of the two uprights are halved and bolted to a cross-bar $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" long. The uprights are secured with diagonal braces $1\frac{3}{8}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3'-9" fastened together where they intersect.

6. THE PARALLEL BARS

The two bars are 2" x $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x 6' 10" and are set $16\frac{1}{2}$ " to $18\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. The ends are beveled and the tops are rounded. Each bar is nailed to two uprights (2" x 3" x 5'-0") set 5' apart and extending 34" above ground. An overhang of about 6" is allowed at each end of the bar.

In addition it is suggested that no equipment is complete without a number of building blocks, wooden boxes of various sizes, pieces of board and old lumber, with a few tools and out-of-doors toys. A ladder, detached from the support, is an invaluable adjunct to building and other operations. A sloping cover to the sand-box not only protects the sand but is a fairly good substitute for the old-time cellar door, that most important dramatic property of a play era past, or rapidly passing.

The above description of apparatus was submitted to Mr. A. E. Metzdorf, of the Y. M. C. A., Rochester, New York, former director of Recreation for Springfield, Mass., for any suggestions which he might have on the use of this apparatus for the development of backyard play. Mr. Metzdorf has made the following comments:

1. THE SEE-SAW

THE BOARD—Straight grained lumber $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to 2" x 7" x 12'. Two cleats $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 7" bolted to under side of board to act as a socket on hip of horse.

HORSE—Height 18"; length $22\frac{1}{2}$ "; spread of feet at the ground 20", etc.

NOTE.—The 9" board is wide for children of 4, 5 and 6 years of age. A horse 25" high is much too high for children of that age.

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2. THE STAND AND SLIDE

NOTE—If the slide is to be 12" wide it would be dangerous to have the platform 26" wide without guard-rails leading right to the board.

STAND AND PLATFORM—Fourteen inches wide; 24" long; 5' high. Cleats should be like the steps of a step-ladder rather than ordinary cleats on a ladder.

SLIDE—Straight grained lumber $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 12" x 12'.

3. THE SWINGING ROPE

NOTE—From the description of this piece of apparatus it is hard for me to imagine how the writer is going to brace the top of this apparatus unless there is a rope or cable or something from the top to the ground. He intimates that "unless there are facilities for bracing at the top the upright should be made longer and buried about 3' in the ground." I think for all practical and safety purposes it would be much better to plan to bury all uprights into the ground that are to hold any suspended apparatus. If this material is planned for indoor use then some arrangement might be made whereby it could be set on a platform. Would suggest that you have one upright sufficiently braced in the center of a platform with a cross-bar over the top holding the climbing rope on one side and the trapeze on the other, making the letter "T" so as to balance it properly.

4. THE TRAPEZE

The description of this piece of apparatus seems to indicate that this arrangement carries not only a trapeze but an adjustable horizontal bar. If this is true, then the top piece should be wider. It is given here as 3" x 2' 10", and the round swinging bar of the trapeze is only given as 20" long. Therefore, suggest that the cross-piece on the top be 3' 10" instead of 2' 10" as there is not sufficient room between the uprights and ends on the swinging bar of the trapeze.

NOTE—The trapeze is a very dangerous piece of apparatus for children 4, 5 and 6 years of age, in fact for most youngsters up to 12.

5. THE LADDER AND SUPPORT

NOTE—This is another piece of dangerous apparatus for young children. I have never had any experience with this piece of apparatus so cannot give you verification of the dimensions.

6. PARALLEL BARS

NOTE—One of the most dangerous pieces of apparatus for young children, not only because of the possibilities of accidents but

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because the position of support on the shoulder girdle in the cross-rest position is very dangerous. In physical training we do not use the parallel bars until well up in the high school course.

The parallel bars here given are much too large for the grip of young children. The bars should be nearly round and not any larger than $1\frac{1}{2}$ " or $1\frac{3}{4}$ " at the very most. The shoulder points of young children, 4, 5 and 6 years of age, are not much over 12" apart, varying anywhere from 9" to 13" or 14". Therefore, the figures given here for the width of the parallel as $16\frac{1}{2}$ " to $18\frac{1}{2}$ " apart are much too wide. I would say they should be adjustable from 12" to 15". The hands must be well under the shoulder points in order to sustain the weight as the muscular development in the arms of children of this age is practically nothing, and cannot be expected to hold the entire body weight of the child.

CONCLUSIONS—If it is not out of place, I should like to voice my opinion as to the practical application of apparatus herein described. Personally, after years of experience with very small children in the public schools, I feel that it is more or less of a hazardous undertaking to provide gymnastic apparatus for children of the kindergarten age. While suspended apparatus is good for any children, yet the muscular development in the hands and arms is usually insufficient to insure the safety grip on any suspended apparatus. I would, therefore, question the advisability of pushing hard such equipment as outlined in this catalogue of play equipment gotten out by the Bureau of Educational Experiments. If used at all, the exercises or activities of the children on this apparatus should be only such as they themselves attempt voluntarily.*

* Lumber of this size was used by the Bureau because it is stock size and therefore less expensive.

In the case of the Play School there is adequate and competent supervision and there are no larger children to lead in rough and dangerous use of the apparatus.

INDOOR EQUIPMENT

Requisites for indoor equipment are the following:

A Suitable Floor—The natural place for a little child to play is the floor and it is therefore the *sine qua non* of the play laboratory.

Places to Keep Things—A maximum of convenience to facilitate habits of order.

Table and Chairs—For use as occasion demands to supplement the floor, not to take the place of it.

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Blocks and Toys—For initial play material

The Carpenter's Bench—With tools and lumber for the manufacture of supplementary toys

A Supply of Art and Crafts Material—for the same purpose

INDOOR LABORATORY

The floor should receive first consideration in planning the indoor laboratory. It should be as spacious as circumstances will permit and safe, that is to say clean and protected from drafts and dampness.

A well kept hard-wood floor is the best that can be provided. Individual light rugs or felt mats can be used for the younger children to sit on in cold weather if no doubt exists as to the adequacy of heating facilities.

Battleship linoleum makes a substitute for a hard-wood finish. It comes in solid colors and can be kept immaculate. Deck canvas stretched over a layer of carpet felt and painted makes a warm covering especially well adapted to the needs of very little children, as it has some of the softness of a carpet and yet can be scrubbed and mopped.

Second only in importance is the supply of lockers, shelves, boxes and drawers for the disposal of the great number and variety of small articles that make up the tools and supplies of the laboratory.

The Mosher kindergarten chairs are in three sizes and very satisfactory. The light tables recommended for use can be folded by the children and put away in the biggest cupboard space.

Block boxes are an essential part of the equipment. Their dimensions should be planned in relation to the unit block of the set used. Those recommended by the Bureau of Educational Experiments are $13\frac{3}{4}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ " x 44" (inside measurements) for use in a set having a unit $1\frac{3}{8}$ " x $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{8}$ ". They are on castors and can be rolled to any part of the room.

The low blackboards are 5'5" in height and 2" from the floor.

All the furnishings of the laboratory should lend themselves to use as dramatic properties when occasion demands and a few may be kept for such purposes alone. The light screens are properties of this kind and may be put to an endless number of uses.

BALCONY AND SHELVES—The Play School in New York has a balcony which greatly increases the floor space and contributes effec-

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tively to many play schemes. Drop shelves can be used for some purposes instead of tables when space is limited.

INDOOR SAND BOX—A sand-box with four sides is ideal for the enclosed porch or terrace and a great resource in rainy weather. The usual kindergarten sand table cannot provide the same play opportunity that is afforded by a floor box, but it is always a valuable adjunct to indoor equipment.

CARPENTER'S BENCH—The carpenter equipment must be a "sure enough business affair" and the tools, real tools—not toys.

The Sheldon bench in use at the New York Play School is a real bench in every particular except size. The tool list is as follows:

Manual training hammer, 18-point cross-cut saw, 9-point rip saw, large screw driver, wooden handle; small screw driver, nail puller, Stanley smooth-plane, No. 3; bench hook, brace and set of twist bits, manual training rule, steel rule, trisquare, Utility box—with assorted nails, screws, combination India oil stone, oil can, small hatchet.

LUMBER—Lumber is an important consideration. Excellent results have sometimes been achieved where only boxes from the grocery and left over pieces from the carpenter shop have been provided. Such rough lumber affords good experience in manipulation and its use may help to establish habits of adapting materials as we find them to the purposes we have in hand. This is the natural attack of childhood and it should be fostered, for children can lose it and come to feel that specially prepared materials are essential and a consequent limitation to ingenuity and initiative can thus be established.

On the other hand some projects and certain stages of experience are best served by a supply of good regulation stock. Boards of soft pine white wood, bass wood or cypress in thickness of $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ " and $\frac{7}{8}$ " are especially well adapted for children's work, and stock strips $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and 2" and 3" wide lend themselves to many purposes.

TOYS

The proper basis of selection for toys is their efficiency as toys; that is:

They must be suggestive of play and made for play; they should be selected in relation to each other, consistent with the environment of the child who is to use them, and constructed simply so that they may serve as models for other toys to be made by the children. Toys

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should suggest something besides domestic play so that the child's interest may be led to activities outside the home life. They should be durable because they are the realities of a child's world and deserve the dignity of good workmanship.

An adequate supply of toys is a necessity and the charm of building blocks with their unlimited possibilities, and of store playing will never end as long as there are children in the world.

FLOOR BLOCKS—Where the budget for equipment is limited, floor blocks can be cut by the local carpenter, or in a school by the manual training department. The blocks in use at The Play School are of white wood, the unit block being $1\frac{3}{8}$ " x $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". They range in size from half units and diagonals to blocks four times the unit in length (22").

A splendid set of blocks known as the Hill Floor Blocks, the invention of Professor Patty Smith Hill of Teachers' College, may be secured from A. Schoenhut & Co., of Philadelphia. They are of hard maple and come in seven sizes, from 3" squares to oblongs of 24", the unit block being 6" in length. There are 680 pieces in a set, half and quarter sets are also obtainable.

The School of Childhood at the University of Pittsburgh makes use of several varieties of blocks, some of commercial manufacture, others cut to order. The list given is as follows:

A. Nest of blocks

B. Large blocks made to order of hard maple in five sizes:

Cubes, 5" x 5".

Oblongs, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" x 10".

Triangular prisms made by cutting cube diagonally into two and four parts

Pillars made by cutting oblongs into two parts

Plinths made by cutting oblongs into two parts

Light weight 12" boards, 3'-0" to 7'-0" long

C. Froebel's enlarged fifth and sixth gifts

D. Stone Anchor blocks

E. Architectural blocks for flat forms

F. Peg-Lock blocks

As children become more dexterous and ambitious in their block construction, the Peg-Lock Blocks will be found increasingly valuable. They are manufactured by the Peg-Lock Block Co., of New York. Cut on a smaller scale than other blocks described, they are equipped with holes and pegs by which they may be securely joined. This admits of a type of construction entirely outside the possibilities

A CATALOGUE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

of other blocks. They come in sets of varying sizes and in a great variety of shapes.

FLOOR TOYS—The "Do-with Toys" designed by Miss Caroline Pratt meet the need for a consistent series of toys to be used with floor blocks. They provide, first, a doll family of proportions suited to block houses, next, a set of farm animals and carts, and finally, a set of wild animals, all designed on the same size scale of construction simple enough to be copied at the bench, and suggesting, each set after its kind, a host of supplementary toys, limited in variety and in numbers only by the experience of the child concerned and his ability to construct them.

TRANSPORTATION TOYS—Simple transportation toys are next needed and suitable ones can generally be obtained in the shops. For railroad tracks the block supply offers possibilities better adapted to the ages we are considering than any of the elaborate rail systems sold with the high-priced mechanical toys.

HOUSEKEEPING PLAY—Every child wants to keep house. Miniature irons, cooking utensils, wash-tubs, dust-pans and other articles are highly desirable. They should be strong and well-made.

STOREKEEPING PLAY—From housekeeping play to storekeeping play is a logical step and one abounding in possibilities for leading the child's interest beyond the home environment. Better than any toy equipment are real cartons, boxes and jars and often new unfilled cartons can be secured from manufacturers. Sample packages add to the interest, and a supply of actual staples in bulk or of sand or sawdust, for weighing and measuring, should be provided as well as paper, string and paper bags of assorted sizes. Small scales and inexpensive sets of standard measures, dry and liquid, can be obtained. A toy telephone and toy money will add zest.

The School of Childhood in Pittsburgh makes use of the following miscellaneous articles for house and store play:

Spoons, various sized boxes, stones, pebbles, buttons, shells, spools, bells, enlarged sticks of the kindergarten, ribbon bolts filled with sand, rice, shot, bottles.

CRAFT AND COLOR MATERIALS

Materials of this kind are a valuable part of any play equipment. Of the large assortment carried by kindergarten and school supply houses the following are best adapted to the needs of the play laboratory:

A CATALOGUE OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

Modelling Materials—Modelling clay and plasticine, far from being the same, are supplementary materials, each adapted to uses for which the other is unsuited.

Weaving Materials—Raphia, basketry reed, colored worsteds, cotton roving, jute and macramé cord can be used for many purposes.

Material for Paper Work—Heavy oak tag, manila, and bogus papers for cutting and construction come in sheets of different sizes. Colored papers, both coated (colored on one side) and engine colored (colored on both sides) are better adapted to "laboratory purposes" when obtainable in large sheets instead of the regulation kindergarten squares. Colored tissue papers, scissors and library paste are always in demand.

Color Materials—Crayons, water color paints, chalks (for black-board use) are best adapted to the needs of play when supplied in a variety of colors and shades. For drawing and painting coarse paper should be furnished in quantity and in sheets of differing sizes.

"If children are let alone with paper and crayons they will quickly learn to use these toys quite as effectively as they do blocks and dolls."

TOYS FOR ACTIVE PLAY AND OUTDOOR TOOLS

Among the many desirable toys for active play the following deserve "honorable mention":

Express Wagon	Indoor Baseball
Sled	Rubber Balls (various sizes)
Horse Reins	Bean Bags
"Coaster" or "Scooter"	Steamer Quoits
Velocipede (and other adaptations of the bicycle for beginners)	
Football (small size Association ball)	

As in the case of the carpenter's bench it is poor economy to supply any but good tools for the yard and garden. Even the best garden sets for children are so far inferior to those made for adults as to render them unsatisfactory and expensive by comparison. It is therefore better to get light-weight pieces in the smaller standard sizes and cut down long wooden handles for greater convenience.

In addition to the garden-set of shovel, rake, hoe, trowel and wheelbarrow, a small crow-bar is useful about the yard and, in winter, a light snow shovel is an advantage.

Keep All the Beauty

The Albany Chamber of Commerce is endeavoring to prevent the erection of new office buildings near the beautiful Hall of Education which would mar its artistic setting and forever ruin the effective grouping of the magnificent State buildings surrounding the New York State Capitol. Already the new telephone building on the hill south-east of the Capitol obscures the State building from the south and mars what was once a beautiful landscape setting.

Speaking of this matter, Dr. John H. Finley, State Commissioner of Education, said:

"I hope that this great State, which is as rich as many an empire, will keep this little plot of open park as a setting for its public buildings. I am sure that future generations would never forgive our parsimony in the treatment of these buildings which have been erected at such tremendous expense.

"The architect of this building, Mr. Hornbostel, asked me a few days ago if I had visited Baalbek, out on the edge of the desert, when I was in Syria and Asia Minor, and I was happily able to tell him that I had seen the ruins of its temples, though I had to walk through the rain one late afternoon and evening, eighteen miles and more between trains, to do so. I asked him then if he had ever been there and he replied in substance, that he got some of the elements of this Education Building out of those ruins. It was the ancient city of Heliopolis in which these temples once stood in their glory—the city of the sun. I have imagined that the sun when it rose over the desert to the East looked first for the columns of Heliopolis so like our own and lingered as long as possible to look back upon them across the Lebanons. This our building is as impressive and beautiful as those ancient temples, loved by the sun. And I think that the sun when it shines on the world today, after passing the ruined cathedrals and public buildings in France, must be grateful to the architect and to the State for erecting this building to take the place of those in the East that have fallen to heaps of stones in the desert.

"I could wish that no tall building would ever be placed between it and the midday sun for it is one of the most noble and significant buildings that the sun shines upon in the daily

TRANSPLANT THEATRES TO COMMUNITIES

rotation of the earth upon its axis. The people of this State have made a real contribution to the beauty and grandeur of the earth in the State buildings. It seems uneconomical to hide them when so much has been spent to make them attractive to human eyes. It is our home. We should find it symbolic of our high calling and of the majesty of our opportunity. It is dedicated to the children of the State. We should find a fine comradeship of spirit beneath this roof that will express itself in all the schools of the State. We can tolerate nothing here except those things which we wish to set before the children of this State—honesty, courage, patience, justice."

Transplant Camp Theatres to Communities

PERCIVAL CHUBB

An appeal by the President of the Drama League of America for the perpetuation of the recreation features of the training camps by establishing Peoples Theatres in every community.

The camp theatres have pointed the way to a peoples drama and an era of People Theatres. The signposts are unmistakable. They promise a robust democratization of drama—a drama for the people. The possibility of transplanting the peoples theatres from camps to cities is an exhilarating challenge.

Camp achievements have revealed new potentialities in popular education and recreation; they have set new levels, opened new doors, and liberated new resources. The camps have put the schools to the blush. Just as they have hopefully started to convert a songless into a singing America,—which the schools had failed to do,—so they may develop a new dramatically-minded America out of the evening diversions of our soldiery. Rude beginnings in song have evoked here and there a higher kind of lyrical folkcraft. Academicians may squirm at *Good Morning, Mr. Zip*, but just as a wincing musician confessed to me that he had become tolerant of this effervescent jingle because it leads on to *Joan of Arc*, *Land of Mine*, the *Marseillaise*—and beyond; so a stiff-jointed advocate of the "legitimate" may see in a vogue of soldier's minstrel shows the promise and potency of a new national drama.

TRANSPLANT THEATRES TO COMMUNITIES

This is part of a great issue—that of the changes in our civilization which war-time effort may effectuate, if we so will it. The situation in the large is this: *Hundreds of thousands of our boys have been living in camp a kind of life that is cleaner, comelier and richer than the life they knew before.* We cannot review here the gains in sanitation, manners, instruction, recreation; and it is not necessary. The question that now is inescapable is—Are these lads to return to their old life, lacking in the resources and opportunities they have enjoyed in camp? Are they to be pointed again to the saloon and the poolroom, the street corner, the cheap dance hall and the movie show as their places of resort? Or are we to catch these new nascent interests and connections, provide for them, and carry them forward? Shall we give these graduates of the camp the equivalents of their huts and hostess-houses, their halls and theatres? Or shall there be no more “sings” and shows and cheap theatres under expert leadership? Here, for example is a Division that leaves camp, after skillful handling by a dramatic specialist, ready to *supply itself* for a year ahead with a never-ending variety of entertainment, vaudeville, comic operas, plays, is that to lead nowhere after they get back? Are there to be no choral clubs and dramatic clubs, and no facilities for organization and presentation? Is there to be no more *smileage*? No more good professional companies, with a new motive in their work, to be enjoyed at people's prices?

The task of the Drama League of America in this matter is too plain for doubting; it is to conserve and mature the gains made by the camps—the best of them. More especially, it is to press for the erection or re-erection of theatres and auditoriums where camp developments may be furthered, and to see that the same sort of machinery, expert leadership, and organizing resources are employed.

It must bring every influence to bear to get the Heroes' Funds which are beginning to be raised for war “monuments” applied to this end. Why should we have another plague of pillars, obelisks and arches as the memorials of this war? Why not have beautiful utilities? And what can be more in the spirit of the Great Mobilization than a perpetuation of the bright recreative and educational features of camp life.

The Spirit Goes On

The Stockton, California, *Independent* published the following article just before Christmas. Its spirit should not be confined to that expansive season.

Abou Ben Adhem was a man who was given a front seat in Heaven because he loved his fellow men. The Community Service Council which held its first meeting yesterday is going to be given a front seat in the heart of Stockton, because its object is to serve its fellow men. Under the organizing hand of Captain Stone of the Community Service, the Community Service Council planned to cooperate with the Community Service Executive Committee to give Stockton and vicinity the biggest, finest Christmas tree that ever was.

But the kiddies are not going to be the only ones to enjoy that giant Christmas Tree; no sirree, for Mr. Kahn of the Western States Gas and Electric Company has promised to light it up in such a fashion that grown ups will blink their eyes and wonder if it isn't, after all, a miracle.

And perhaps it is a miracle, for five years ago, Community Service was a thing unheard of. It is a child of the war, a blessed off-spring of the War Camp Community Service which gave help and advice to the families of absent soldiers and sailors. If the Red Cross is the Greatest Mother, then the Community Service is the Greatest Father for it is the head of the House of Love; it serves and works for and bands together the great human family. This year, "one year after," it will give to Stockton its first Community Tree.

On the public square, opposite the Court House on Christmas Eve, the Holt Glee Club will sing the dearly beloved Christmas Carols and the huge tree will glow and spread kindly, protecting arms toward rich man, poor man, beggar man, the halt, the lame and the blind, toward the stranger in our midst. Through Community Service the stranger will grow to love a government that fosters community spirit and, in loving, is no longer a stranger. For, back of it all, the definite ideal gives purpose to the fun. But the best treat of all will be for poor little maimed kiddies, for nice, comfy automobiles are going to scour the country and pick them up so carefully and each little unfortunate is to sit just as close as possible to the Biggest Tree That Ever Was.

CARRY ON

Every right thinking person is going to feel it a proud privilege to give his or her bit toward Stockton's Community Tree. It is going to be for everybody and everybody is going to have a share in it. The tot who has never known a real Christmas, the child whose soldier father will never return to play Santa Claus, the blighted little one who is too crippled to romp and play—all will be there and the reward of those who give will be the inner warm satisfaction of having a part in it, for all the joys we mortals may know, the greatest of these is Service.

Carry On

The following appeal sent out before Christmas perhaps loses little of its poignancy in the passing of days:

Do you remember last Christmas what a happy time we had because "our boys" were coming home. What a sight it was, 25,000 boys to whom we could give Christmas, Christmas boxes, Christmas letters, just to make the boys know how glad we were to have them back, and to make them feel that although they had not quite reached their own homes New York was standing in the place; that all of New York was determined to be just a big, wonderful Christmas home for the boys.

Perhaps, you think now that the work is over, that all the boys have gone home, just as your boy has come home to you. You did not realize, did you, that there are more than 10,000 boys with us in our city who have not gone home and who won't be able to go home for a long time yet?

I wonder if any one has told you that there are more boys in Pershing House now than there have been at any time before, and that these boys are staying here because they paid the *biggest price* for our world freedom. They are staying here because they have to go daily to the hospitals to receive treatment and because the home atmosphere in Pershing House makes them a little happier and a little less impatient to go to their own homes.

Somehow, people forget so quickly. How would you feel if you had been Dick —— and you had given a leg in France and you were trying to cross Fifth Avenue and you were terribly frightened because you could not get across with your crutches, and no one person out of all the crowd offered you a helping hand? This is just what happened a week ago and when Dick came down to

CARRY ON

Pershing House and sat at the table with his head on his hand and one of the "Mother Hostesses" asked him what the matter was, he told his story and said, "Six months ago, this would not have happened, but somehow, now, nobody cares." Do you care about Dick? Would you like for Dick to know that you cared and that you would like him to have just a real wonderful Christmas!—and another boy whom perhaps you have seen in Pershing House and wondered why he has that expression on his face—grouch you might call it—but the Red Cross knows and the Mother Hostess knows that this boy went through most terrible experiences, that for twelve months, he was attached to the ambulance forces in France, carried the broken, terribly wounded bodies of his buddies into the hospitals and on the operating tables, and at the end of this time, went to pieces himself, and somehow, just can't come back, and all the love and patience and care that we can give will never fully compensate for the terrible experience this boy passed through.

Oh! There are numbers of others that we might tell you about, but we just want you to know a little of why the "war isn't over" for these boys, and we want to make Pershing House a big, splendid House of happiness for the entire week. From December 21st to 27th we are planning to have one long Christmas Day.

We are going to have, of course, a big Christmas tree and every one of these boys must have a present on that tree, and we are going to have Christmas boxes, and every boy must have all the home-made fudge he can eat, and we are going to have *turkey* and My! you know how much turkey costs now, and cranberries, mince pie and Christmas cake and everything that a boy would want to have, if he could just get back to his own, own home.

If you should happen to know of any convalescent wounded boy who does not know about Pershing House, won't you tell him that we are very anxious to see him during this week, and cordially invite him to be our guest for the Christmas Day Dinner during the week.

Yours for the happiest Christmas possible for Our Boys,

PERSHING HOUSE FOR CONVALESCENT BOYS

54 Gramercy Park, New York City.

Block Organizations Function for Democracy

Philadelphia under Community Service (Incorporated) is developing a form of neighborhood organization by blocks—a block being designated as the two sides of a single street between the two nearest cross streets. A number of demonstrations are being made in several districts which testify to the practicability of the plan as a means of bringing together the residents of a neighborhood for the purpose of meeting neighborhood needs along leisure time lines.

Of the plan Charles F. Weller says: "Nowhere have I seen anything more potent for democracy through a practicable working combination with voluntary leadership than I saw recently in Islandville, an industrial suburban section of Philadelphia where employees of the Hog Island Shipyard are living in houses built by the Emergency Fleet Corporation. For two hours I sat with a group of twenty-five men and four women, ordinary Americans. Most of them are chairmen either of special committees on the Fourth of July celebration or of the regular standing committees on Health and Sanitation, Information, Recreation, Cooperation, Education, Block Beautifying.

"Also active in the meeting were several block organizers—each responsible for one of the ten city blocks comprised in the Islandville Community Service Association. For each of these ten blocks, in addition to the block organizer and associate organizer—usually man and wife, there is a block representative of each of the six outstanding committees. Through the meetings of their central committees, these block leaders draw together the whole local community which is also expressed inclusively in such meetings of the Community Council as I attended.

"The fifteen or more reports which I heard demonstrated a number of important possibilities and essentials of Community Service centers. They are as follows:

"Through responsibilities and activities—the only forces which hold and mould people—average Americans can be organized in local Community Service groups which will efficiently make life worth living in their own neighborhoods and ultimately throughout the city.

"To realize democracy and to enable it to function, not politically alone, but throughout all the really vital communal concerns of human life, a method is here evolving which is as simple, adaptable and potentially universal as a Ford automobile. Any open-minded, social-visioned person can learn the essentials and carry the healthful contagion from any successful center."

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IT ISN'T YOUR TOWN, IT'S YOU

If you want to live in the kind of town
Like the kind of town you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long, hike,
You'll only find what you've left behind,
For there's nothing that's really new,
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your town,
It isn't the town, it's you!

Real towns are not made by men afraid
Lest somebody else gets ahead,
When everyone works and nobody shirks
You can raise a town from the dead.
And if, while you make your personal stake,
Your neighbors can make one, too,
Your town will be, what you want to see
It isn't the town—it's you!